

1. In a printing system, a method for displaying print job information for selection on a front panel of a printer prior to despooling the print jobs to the printer, the method comprising:

initiating a print job;

5 preserving the print job on at least one of (i) a client computer device and (ii) a print server;

storing job data on the print server, wherein the job data is associated with the print job;

transmitting the job data from the print server to a printing device;

10 displaying at least a portion of the job data prior to despooling the print job to the printing device;

despooling the print job to the printing device; and

rendering the print job at the printing device.

15 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for initiating the print job is performed at the client computer device, and wherein the print job is initiated without specifying the printing device.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for transmitting the job data  
20 from the print server to the printing device comprises:

querying queued print jobs; and

pulling the job data from the print server to the printing device as a result of the query performed.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising receiving input that selects the job data and initiates the steps for despooling and rendering the print job.

5. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the step for querying is based on at least one of:

- (i) jobs on a specific printer server;
- (ii) jobs from a specific client computer device;
- (iii) jobs initiated from a specific user;
- (iv) a specific print job; and
- (v) a specific printing characteristic.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printer server is not associated with any particular printing device.

7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the job data uniquely identifies and locates the print job, and wherein the job data includes at least one of:

- (i) a job name;
- (ii) a job identification;
- (iii) a client name; and
- (iv) a user name.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for displaying at least a portion of the job data comprises one of:

displaying the at least a portion of the job data on a front panel of the printing device for selection by a user; and

5 remotely displaying the at least a portion of the job data on an interface for selection by a user.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one of:

updating a current status of the print job at the client computer device; and

10 updating the current status of the print job at the print server.

10. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for transmitting the job data from the print server to the printing device comprises:

querying multiple print servers for queued print jobs; and

15 pulling the job data from one of the multiple print servers to the printing device as a result of the query performed.

11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for transmitting the job data from the print server to the printing device comprises:

querying multiple print servers for queued print jobs, wherein the multiple print servers are queried from a meta print server;

5 pulling the job data from one of the multiple print servers to the meta print server as a result of the query performed; and

transmitting the job data from the meta printer server to the printing device.

12. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising transmitting updated status  
10 information from the printing device to at least one of (i) the print server and (ii) the client computer device.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for transmitting updated status information updates at least one of:

- 15 (i) a status of the print job; and  
(ii) a status of the job data.

14. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the updated status information includes at least one of:

- 20 (i) information indicating that the print job has been despooled to the printing device; and  
(ii) information that the print job has been rendered at the printing device.

15. A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising at least one of:  
deleting the print job at the client computing device;  
deleting the print job at the printer server; and  
deleting the job data at the printer server.

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16. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
if the print job is in a journaled format, converting the journaled print job into  
a printer ready format, wherein the converting occurs after the step for displaying at  
least a portion of the job data and before the step for despooling the print job to the  
printing device.

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17. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
if the print job is in a non-compatible format with the printing device,  
converting the print job into a format that is compatible with the printing device.

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18. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
if the print job includes one or more capabilities that are incompatible with the  
printing device, emulating the capabilities to be compatible with the printing device.

19. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the capabilities relate to at least one of:

- (i) copy collation;
- (ii) booklet printing; and
- (iii) N-up printing.

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20. An interactive printing system comprising:

a print job initiated at a client computing device and preserved at one of (i) the client computing device and (ii) a printer server;

5 job data corresponding to the print job, wherein the job data is preserved at the printer server;

a network coupling the client computing device, the printer server and a printing device; and

10 a display panel of the printing device that selectively displays at least a portion of the job data as a result of a queued print jobs query and prior to the print job being despoiled to the printing device for rendering the print job.

21. An interactive printing system as recited in claim 20, wherein printing device is configured to selectively initiate the queued print jobs query based on user input received.

15 22. An interactive printing system as recited in claim 20, further comprising additional printer servers coupled to the network, and wherein the queued print job query is performed on the printer server and at least some of the additional printer servers.

23. An interactive printing system as recited in claim 20, further comprising a meta printer server, wherein the meta printer server is communicatively coupled to the print server and one or more additional printer servers, wherein the meta printer server is configured to perform the queued print jobs query on the print server and the one or more  
5 additional printer servers.



24. A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for providing interactive printing, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

receiving input to initiate a print job;

preserving the print job on at least one of (i) a client computer device and (ii) a print server;

storing job data on the print server, wherein the job data is associated with the print job;

transmitting the job data from the print server to a printing device;

displaying at least a portion of the job data prior to despooling the print job to the printing device;

despooling the print job to the printing device; and

rendering the print job at the printing device.

25. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for receiving input to initiate the print job is performed at the client computer device, and wherein the print job is initiated without specifying the printing device.

26. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for transmitting the job data from the print server to the printing device comprises:

querying queued print jobs; and

5 pulling the job data from the print server to the printing device as a result of the query performed.

27. A computer program product as recited in claim 26, further comprising receiving input that selects the job data and initiates the steps for despooling and rendering the print job.

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28. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for displaying at least a portion of the job data comprises one of:

displaying the at least a portion of the job data on a front panel of the printing device for selection by a user; and

15 remotely displaying the at least a portion of the job data on an interface for selection by a user.

29. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for transmitting the job data from the print server to the printing device comprises:

20 querying multiple print servers for queued print jobs; and

pulling the job data from at least one of the multiple print servers to the printing device as a result of the query performed.

30. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for transmitting the job data from the print server to the printing device comprises:

querying multiple print servers for queued print jobs, wherein the multiple print servers are queried from a meta print server;

5 pulling the job data from at least one of the multiple print servers to the meta print server as a result of the query performed; and

transmitting the job data from the meta printer server to the printing device.

31. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the computer  
10 program code is further comprised of executable code for implementing a step for transmitting updated status information from the printing device to at least one of (i) the print server and (ii) the client computer device.

32. A computer program product as computer program product in claim 31,  
15 wherein the step for transmitting updated status information updates at least one of:

(i) a status of the print job; and

(ii) a status of the job data.

33. A computer program product as recited in claim 31, wherein the updated  
20 status information includes at least one of:

(i) information indicating that the print job has been despoiled to the printing device; and

(ii) information that the print job has been rendered at the printing device.

34. A computer program product as recited in claim 31, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing at least one of:

- 5 deleting the print job at the client computing device;
- deleting the print job at the printer server; and
- deleting the job data at the printer server.

35. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing at least one of:

- if the print job is in a non-compatible format with the printing device, converting the print job into a format that is compatible with the printing device; and
- 15 if the print job includes one or more capabilities that are incompatible with the printing device, emulating the capabilities to be compatible with the printing device.